



Northern Arizona Council of Governments

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KENNETH J. SWEET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 28, 2009

James G. Jayne, County Manager
Navajo County
P.O. Box 668
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Re: Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Jayne:

This letter serves as recognition and support by the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) for the multi-jurisdictional partnership between Navajo County, the City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside to advance the Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project. The project's scope of work meets the mission of the NACOG Transportation Planning program for addressing regional transportation issues. The multi-jurisdictional project, although not listed or cited within Arizona's State Transportation Improvement Program, will be recommended for the STIP, by NACOG, when funded by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

Southern Navajo County, although a rural region, deals with urban traffic conditions and concerns. Similar to many areas in Arizona, southern Navajo County experienced significant growth over the past decade. The area is a popular tourist destination and serves as a primary commerce center for thousands of area residents. The Southern Navajo County Transportation Plan completed in September 2007 cites the need for substantial infrastructure investment in the area. The Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project will mitigate many concerns regarding traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, and emergency services, but also enhances the region's economic competitiveness by adding and expanding roadways where most needed.

Northern Arizona Council of Governments supports the submission of the Navajo County, City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside's application for the U. S. Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant funds.

Sincerely,



Chris Fetzer
Transportation Director

**WHITE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

James G. Jayne, Manager
Navajo County
P.O. Box 668
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Re: Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) Grant
Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Jayne

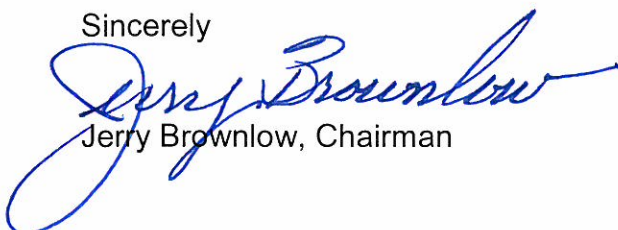
The mission of our organization is "To promote an effective and cohesive transportation system within the White Mountain Region of Navajo and Apache Counties...." The Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor "Project," a multi-jurisdictional collaborative between Navajo County, City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside, is of extreme importance and value to the committee and region.

Southern Navajo County is by far the fastest growing region within our domain. The "Project" is the commercial and industrial hub for a large service area, as cited in the Southern Navajo County Transportation Plan (2007). Year round populations, second-home owners and summer visitors, have quickly overwhelmed our roadway systems and have continued to do so since the study was completed.

Originally, when the "Project's" two-lane, narrow roadways were constructed, their primary function was to provide a secondary emergency evacuation route and convenient ingress/egress access and patterns for commerce. As predicted by the 2007 Plan, so much has changed in five years within the "Project" perimeters. The "Project" area now accommodates heavy commuter and truck traffic, new schools and student pedestrian traffic, new industrial and retail zones, a new electrical utility headquarters site, a major subdivision development and the hospital's renovation and expansion. The three commercial and industrial points captured within the "Project's" scope of work represent enormous transformation and future growth development potential equating to capital investment, job creation and increased sales tax revenues.

Transitioning and expanding the inadequate "Project" system from two to four lanes is an aggressive, necessary measure to provide new job creation, job retention, economic competitiveness, safety and livability for our region. The "Project" has our full commitment and support.

Sincerely



Jerry Brownlow, Chairman



Navajo County Regional Development Council

928.524.4070 • F: 928.524.4239 • C: 928.205.9714 • P.O. Box 668 • Holbrook, AZ 86025

laurie.stradling@navajocountyaz.gov • www.navajocountyaz.gov/development.aspx

James G. Jayne, Manager
Navajo County
P.O. Box 668
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Re: Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project & Application

Dear Mr. Jayne,

The Navajo County Regional Development Council (NCRDC)—as a group comprised of government, workforce and education personnel who are committed to promote and advance sustainable strategies for economic development venues—wish to voice our support of the Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor (SNCRC) project.

The SNCRC project is located in one of the most economically depressed counties in Arizona. Navajo County is a federally designated Enterprise Zone. Southern Navajo County and the project's range is located within a prime regional commercial and industrial hub, not to mention a popular recreation and tourist area. Thousands of visitors flock to our communities each year to ski, fish, camp and hike...the U.S. National Forest is our backyard. Hence, the primary economic engine for the region is the service industry. Hundreds of jobs are created every year to meet service demands.

The SNCRC project has enormous potential to diversify the region's economy. Several events lead to this project's importance relative to economic development activities confined within the roadways expansion scope of work:

- Development and expansion of the Summit Regional Medical Facility;
- Addition of Blue Ridge Mid/Junior High Campus
- Show Low Bluff Development Residential & Commercial Project
- Relocation and expansion of Navopache Electric Cooperative's Headquarters
- Burgeoning retail, commercial development and anchor tenant activities within three major commerce zones: Penrod Road, Scott Ranch Road and Porter Mountain Road
- Commercial redevelopment and infill opportunities

The SNCRC project presents boundless economic growth opportunities within one of the most impoverished counties in Arizona and the nation. This project represents a catalyst to improve not just the transportation corridors, but to address business creation, retention and expansion opportunities for all of southern Navajo County.

The project's stakeholders—Navajo County, City of Show Low and Town of Pinetop-Lakeside—have NCRDC's full support. We recognize that the Southern Navajo County Regional Development Corridor Project encompasses and improves a significant commercial corridor region within the county.

Sincerely,

Supervisor David Tenney
Chairman



September 2, 2009

James G. Jayne, County Manager
Navajo County
P.O. Box 668
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Re: Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Jayne,

The Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce fully supports the partnership between Navajo County, the City of Show Low and the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside and the Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project. The mission of the Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce is to work with our business community and citizens to enhance the general prosperity of the area. The Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project complements our mission by increasing commerce capacity.

Southern Navajo County is situated in the "White Mountains." Thousands of visitors travel to our region to recreate during the four classic seasons. Southern Navajo County is bordered by the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The area boasts the largest stand of Ponderosa Pines, over 200 miles of hiking trails, numerous streams, lakes and campgrounds and a ski resort. As a predominantly service-oriented economy, wages are typically low. Enhancing the region's transportation corridors will fortify commerce opportunities and increase the ability to diversify retail and commercial activities.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly Stepp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beverly" and the last name "Stepp" clearly distinguishable.

Beverly Stepp, Director
Pinetop-Lakeside Chamber of Commerce